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Chapter 1 (cat above is Lightningkit)

[image]

~cat above is Lightningkit

Branches rattled outside the nursery. Wind was howling and ripping leaves from the trees making them bare and thunder made the sky shake.

A large muscular tom shoved his way through the nursery entrance and padded cautiously up to a she-cat who was cuddled up snuggly at the back of the den.

"How are you doing Flowepool?" the tom asked, licking the she-cat on the cheek.

"I'm fine Bearnose." Flowerpool meowed. "But I feel like the wind is going to rip the top off the nursery!"

Bearnose purred and glanced down at the squirming Kira that were curled up in the curve of Flowerpool's belly.

"Such strong kits we have." Bearnose purred. "Do you have any names picked out?"

"I want to name the brown tom Windkit. And the yellow she-cat Lightningkit. And for the greg and yellow she-cat, Thunderkit." Flowerpool answered happily.

"Those are beautiful names dear." Bearnose purred. "Are you hungry? Rembember, you need to keep your strengths up. You ha e three kits to feed now." he reminded.

"Actually, I am feeling kind of hungry." Flowerpool meowed.

"I'll go check and see if there's anything on the fresh kill pile that hasn't been blown away." Bearnose chuckled as he padded out of

the den.

He padded over to the fresh kill pile and was surprised to see a freshly killed thrush on top of the pile. *Perfect.* He grabbed the thrush and turned to pad back to the nursery but was blinded by a flash of lightning that struck down onto the nursery. Thunder immediately followed the flash, then all was silent.

"Flowerpool!" Bearnose shrieked. He dropped his thrush and raced inside of the den. He shoved his way inside of the soggy den. "Flowerpool! Are you..."

His question was cut off by Flowerpool's sickening shriek.

"The kits! They've stopped breathing!"

Chapter 2 (cat above is Windkit)

[image]

Thunderkit woke up in a strange forest. There were bright, colorful flowers and soft, luscious grass. The sun shone brightly and there wasn't a cloud in the sky. She looked around to see Lightningkit and Windkit sleeping next to her.

"Lightningkit! Windkit! Wake up!" she pawed her litter mates and shook them.

"What is it Thunderkit!" Windkit groaned.

"Yes, I was having a lovely dream." Lightningkit mumbled sleepily.

"Look at this place!" Thunderkit squealed.

"I wonder why we're here. The last thing I remember was sleeping with Flowerpool in the nursery." Lightningkit meowed.

Then out of the mist, three cats approached the kits. They stepped up to the kits and bowed their heads.

"I am Stormstar, previous leader of Willowclan." The leader of the three meowed. "We have brought you here to warn and prepare you. A great evil is rising, and you three are the only ones who can stop it." he meowed.

"Us! why us! We're only kits!" Thunderkit squeaked.

"Because you are the chosen ones." Stormstar meowed. He signaled for the other two cats to step forward. "This is Rainshine and Hailpelt, two warriors who belonged to Willowclan. They can help you throughout this journey." he mowed. "We are here to give you powers to stop this great evil." Stormstar meowed. "But be warned, you must use them wisely, of you could bring chaos to your world.

Thunderkit, step forward."

"O....Ok." Thunderkit meowed trembling. She padded up to Stormstar and gazed up at his ice blue eyes.

"Thunderkit, I give you the power of thunder. You must use this power carefully, for it can do much harm." He touched noses with the she-kit and sent a shock wave through her body. Thunder kits eyes widened and she collapsed on the ground in agony. She sat up panting and padded back over to her siblings.

Now Hailpelt stepped forward. "Windkit, step forward." he meowed boldly. Windkit padded up to the large tom and stared up at him. "I give you the power of wind. Use it to fight the evil that rises." He touched noses with the tiny kit and sent the power rushing through his veins. Windkit gasped in shock and pulled away. He turned and stepped back to his siblings.

Rainshine padded in front of the two toms. "Lightningkit, come forward." She meowed softly.

Lightningkit trotted over to Rainshine and tilted her head so she could see her.

"Lightningkit, I give you the power of lightning use it carefully and wisely for it could cause destruction." She touched noses with her, but Lightningkit didn't flinch. She held her growing and as she padded back to her littermates, she felt sparks light in her steps.

'This is great!' she thought.

"We are trusting you with these powers, and we can easily take them away, so use them wisely and for the sake of the clans, not for you. And no one should now about these powers except you, not even your closest friends and family." Stormstar warned.

"We will." all three kits meowed.

"Now go to sleep, you will wake back in Willowclan." Stormstar meowed.

Thunderkit, Lightningkit, and Windkit curled up in a patch of thick

grass and closed their eyes. As Thunderkit closed her eyes, the last thing she saw, was the three cats, fading into the mist.

Chapter 3 (cat above is Thunderkit)

[image]

Thunderkit's eyes flashed open. Light poured in and she was aware of her surroundings. She saw Flowerpool, and Bearnose, the medicine cat Honeyhope, a strange black tom with white paws, Lightingkit and Windkit laying next to her, and the storm raging outside.

"What happened?" she murmured as she rose to her paws.

Honeyhope padded forward with some foul looking herbs in her jaws. "Here." she meowed and dropped them at Thunderkit's paws as well as Lightningkit's and Windkit's, who were still fast asleep.

Hailpelt and Rainshine must still be talking to them. she thought.

"Eat these. They will help you build up your strength." Honeyhope meowed.

"But why? What happened?" Thunderkit asked.

"Do you not know?" Honeyhope meowed shocked. "Lightning struck the nursery and you three stopped breathing! Flowerpool nearly died!"

Thunderkit's eyes widened with shock and fear, then thunder boomed in her heart. She looked at her mother, then her father, and then her siblings, who had begin to awaken.

Thunder cracked outside followed by a brilliant flash of lightning, shining a blue glow across the dark sky.

"Was that us?" Thunderkit thought and glanced at Lightningkit. Lightningkit stared at Thunderkit, eyes gleaming. She nodded as if she read her mind.

Thunderkit grinned at Lightningkit and then turned her gaze upon Windkit. He was staring at his sisters, his eyes shining in the dim light.

He padded over to his sisters and sat down next to them. He closed his eyes and found the power inside of him. He let the wind blow as hard as he could make it, sending a shower of golden leaves falling over the enterance of the medicine den.

The three siblings giggled and shook out the leaves that clung to their fur.

"I wonder what the enemy Stormstar was talking about is." Thunderkit whispered.

"I don't know." Windkit replied. "But I can tell it's really bad."

"And we have to fight it." Lightningkit finished.

"Don't worry. We'll be ready." Thunderkit meowed. "Our star mentors will help us."

The three nodded and headed out into the storm outside.

Chapter: 4 (cat above is Fallenstar)

[image]

It was a crisp leaf-fall morning. The clouds of the Great Storm had finally drifted away, and the warm sun filtered through the the changing leaves of the willows.

Thunderkit, Windkit, and Lightingkit sat in the clearing. It had been four moons since the three siblings were given their powers and they were eager to use them.

"All cats old enough to climb the Great Willow gather beneath the Long Branch for a clan meeting!" Fallenstar yowled.

Thunderkit squealed with joy and nearly jumped out of her fur with excitement.

"Today, three kits are ready to be made apprentice's" Fallenstar yowled clearly.
"Thunderkit, Windkit, Lightingkit. Step forward." Fallenstar meowed.

The three siblings stepped forward, and they were both nervous and excited.

"Lightingkit, from this day forward, until you earn your warrior name, your name shall be Lightningpaw, and your mentor shall be Wildgaze. May he teach you his skill and bravery."

Lightningpaw's eyes lit with joy at Fallenstar's choice of mentor for her. She touched noses with Wildgaze and stepped back to watch her siblings.

"Windkit, step forward." Fallenstar meowed. "From this day forward, until you earn your warrior name, your name shall be Windpaw, and your mentor shall be Rosehawk. May she pass down

her loyalty and intelligence."

A wide grin spread across Windpaw's muzzle as he touched noses with his new mentor. He gazed into her deep amber eyes, before settling down next to Lightningpaw and Wildgaze.

"Now, Thunderkit, step forward." Fallenstar meowed firmly.

Thunderkit padded forward and stared up at Fallenstar. *This is it. The moment I've been wanting for my whole life! She thought.*

"Thunderkit, from this day forward, until you earn your warrior name, your name shall be Thunderpaw. And your mentor, shall be me."

Thunderpaw's eyes glittered and shined as she twirled around. *The leader's apprentice! What an honor!* she thought.

"Now rise as new apprentices of Willowclan!" Fallenstar yowled.

"Lightningpaw! Windpaw! Thunderpaw! Lightningpaw! Thunderpaw!" the clan cheered.

The three new apprentices lifted their heads and looked at each other.

"We did it! We're apprentices!" Thunderpaw cheered. "Nothing will stop us now!"

Chapter 5: (cat above is Flowerpool)

[image]

Thunderpaw was sleeping soundly in the apprentice's den, her tail wrapped over her nose. Her eyes flashed open and she scrambled to her paws when she heard a sickening shriek.

Bearnose! she thought. She darted out of the den and into the warrior's den.

Bearnose stood at the entrance, his eyes wide with shock and horror.

"Flowerpool!" Thunderpaw shrieked. She raced over to her mothers side and turned her head to her father, who was now at her side.

"What happened!" she cried.
Bearnose buried his muzzle into his mates fur.

"I...I..Don't..Know." Bearnose stammered, his voice thick with grief. "She was sleeping here next to me, when all of a sudden, that wound appeared on her throat, and then, she was dead." he sobbed.

"How could this happen!" Thunderpaw wailed to Starclan.

Honeyhope poked her head into the den. "Is every thing okay in here? I thought I heard Flo..." Honeyhope was cut off when she saw Flowerpool's dead body.

"What happened!" she yowled.
She stepped up to Flowerpool's side and examined the wound. "Who did this?" she asked, her eyes filled with horror.

"I..I don't know. She was laying in the nest next to me, then that wound appeared, and then it was too late." he told the medicine cat.

"How could this have happened?" Thunderpaw asked, her eyes

streaming with tears.

"I don't know." Honeyhope replied. "I must speak with Fallenstar about this." she meowed and turned and padded out of the den, her head drooping.

Thunderpaw buried her nose into her mothers pelt and started grooming her thick fur. "I'll miss you mum." she whispered into her ear, tears rolling down her cheeks. "I'll never forget you." She turned and fled out of the den and into the apprentice's den sobbing and collapsed into her nest.
"What's the matter Thundedpaw?" Lightningpaw asked.
"Go see for your self." She snapped back.
"Alright." Lightningpaw replied. She stepped out of the den, and a few seconds later, her shrieks could be heard throughout the whole camp.

Thunderpaw pulled herself to her paws and she stumbled out of the den. Her eyes came upon Flowerpool's lifeless body laying in the clearing.

She saw Fallenstar leap into the Long Branch to address the clan.

"Cats of Willowclan!" he yowled. "Something terrible has happened this night. Flowerpool has died, and we have yet to figure out the cause. But know this, she has not died of natural causes. There was a large gash running down her throat meaning that she was murdered!" he yowled.

There were gasps and yowls of shock and grief coming from the cats below, especially from Windpaw, who was now darting to his mother's body. He buried his nose into her fur and closed his eyes.

A huge gust of wind blew through the camp sending golden leaves down upon the assembled cats.

Lightning struck close by, and thunder rumbled in the distance.

I must talk to Stormstar. Those were Thunderpaws last thoughts before drifting into a deep sleep.

Chapter 6

Thunderpaw perked her ears and lifted her head as she heard paw steps coming towards her. She sleepily opened her eyes, but they didn't have the same cheerful gleam, instead, they were dull and dark with grief.

They came to rest upon Stormstar. He was sitting there, his deep blue gave fixed on her. She jumped to her paws. "Stormstar!" she yowled. She darted over to her star mentor's side.

"You know what happened don't you. You know what killed Flowerpool! You could have saved her!" she screeched.

"I could not have saved her. No one could." Stormstar meowed softly, but then his tone deepened. "This is what I have told you about. They will pick off every cat, until there is no one left. You and your siblings have the power to stop them. You must learn how to wield your power, before they kill us all."

Stormstar's glittering pelt started to fade and began disappearing into the mist.

"Wait! Stormstar! I have so many questions! Don't go!" Thunderpaw yowled, but she realized she was yowling to no one. "I need help." she sighed and drooped her head. She curled up into a tight ball and fell asleep.

Thunderpaw's eyes blinked open and the glowing light of dawn poured into the apprentice's den. She studied up and padded over to Windpaw, careful not to wake the other apprentices, and shook him vigorously.

"Wake up Lightningpaw and meet me outside the camp entrance.

Windpaw nodded sleepily and rose to his paws just as the tip of Thunderpaw's tail disappeared out of the den.

'They must have had the same dream. Maybe Rainshine or Hailpelt told them more about Flowerpool's death.' Thunderpaw thought as she padded to the camp entrance.

"Where are you going Thunderpaw?" asked a voice. Thunderpaw whipped her head around to see Olivedust and Heronpaw on guard duty.

"U..Um.. Just to visit Flowerpool. And Windpaw and Lightningpaw are coming too so let them pass." Thunderpaw replied nervously.

"Well, just be careful. Otterwhisper and Spiderpaw spotted a fox around there yesterday."

"Yes please be careful." Heronpaw meowed his eyes shining.

Thunderpaw blushed and grinned. She could obviously tell that the tom had a crush on her, but she didn't know if it would be safe to love a cat. Wouldn't they just get picked of by the same things that killed Flowerpool? She sighed.

"I will." she meowed simply. She turned and raced through the forest.

Thunderpaw darted between trees and leaped over logs until she reached burial place, where all of the fallen cats off Willowclan were buried. She looked around at the mounds of soil covering the clearing. At the top of each mound was a symbol for each warrior. There was a pine branch for Tallpine, a eagle feather for Eagletalon. She kept scanning the mounds until she found the one she was looking for. A bright pink blossom siting in a pool of water.

"Flowerpool." she breathed. She padded over to her mother's mound and sat at the foot of it.

"Why did it have to be you." she wailed softly. "If you can hear me. Tell me what happened. I can avenge your death."

Thunderpaw whipped her head around as she heard rustling in the bushes behind her. She relaxed as she saw Windpaw and Lightningpaw poke their heads out.

"You wanted us to meet you here. Why couldn't we just do it at camp?" Lightningpaw grumbled.

"Did either of you dream of Rainshine or Hailpelt? We need to talk about it." Thunderpaw meowed.

"Yeah. Why?" Windpaw asked.

"Did they tell you what killed Flowerpool!" Thunderpaw wailed.

"I don't think it's a what Thunderpaw, I think it's a who." Lightningpaw meowed.

"So you think one of our clan mates did it!" she screeched.

"Not exactly. What if it was a Dark Forest cat or someone working for them." Lightningpaw explained.

"That could be true." Windpaw meowed. "But how will we know for sure?"

Thunderpaw gasped as she heard a rustling in the bushes behind her. 'A Dark Forest cat!' she thought worriedly. But when she looked closer, she could make out the shape of a small cat. "Heronpaw!" she meowed shocked. "You followed me!"

"Well, yes. I, just didn't want you to get hurt." Heronpaw stammered.

"How much did you hear!" Lightningpaw demanded.

"Nothing! Just something about some Dark Forest cats and some star..mentors or something." the young tom stammered worriedly.

"Great." Windpaw grumbled. "Now what do we do."

"I promise I won't tell anyone!" Heronpaw cried.

"Ok, fine, just don't tell anyone. I'll talk to you about it tonight." Thunderpaw sighed.

Heronpaw's eyes lit up and he turned and bounced back to camp.

"So now what." Windpaw asked.

"Well, we have no other choice then to tell him." Thunderpaw admitted.

"Good luck with that." Lightningpaw meowed.

"It doesn't seem like you can trust him to keep this a secret." Windpaw admitted.

"I know." Thunderpaw sighed. "But we have no other choice now."

"He likes you Thunderpaw, you know that right?" Lightningpaw told her and grinned.

"I know." she sighed. "But I can't love him back. Or he'll be taken away just like Flowerpool." Thunderpaw sobbed. She turned and darted back towards camp.

Chapter 7

Thunderpaw padded into camp with Windpaw and Lightningpaw trotting behind her. Each carried a plump mouse and Thunderpaw had a young rabbit.

"Well done you three!" Rosehawk exclaimed as she stepped padded up to the fresh kill pile with Wildgaze.

"And I have to say, I'm quite impressed with your rabbit Thunderpaw!" Wildgaze grinned.

"Thanks Wildgaze!" purred Thunderpaw.

Lightningpaw shoved her way forward, trying to get her mentor to see her prey.

"Oh! Lightningpaw! I need you to clean out the elder's den. Fireplum is being really grouchy and I thinks it's the moss Heronpaw brought her last moon." Wildgaze meowed then turned around and padded over to the warrior's den.

Lightningpaw threw down her mouse furiously and growled. "He didn't even acknowledge my mouse!" she snarled.

"Way to go Thunderpaw! My mentor likes you way more that he likes me!" She whipped around and stormed out of camp.

"Wait!" Thunderpaw called but she was too late. She sighed. 'Now about Heronpaw.' she thought. She dropped her rabbit on the fresh kill pile and padded over to the apprentice's den.

"Psstt! Heronpaw! You in here!" Thunderpaw whispered. Thunderpaw saw a grey head lift from one of the nests.

"Over here!" he whispered. "So tell me what's going on." he pried.

"Only under one condition." Thunderpaw ordered. "It has to stay a complete secret. You can tell nobody. Only Lightningpaw and Windpaw can do this. You'll ruin everything if you can't keep your muzzle shut. Can you do that?"

Heronpaw nodded nervously, his fur standing on end along his spine.

"Ok." Thunderpaw meowed and took a deep breath. "Lightningpaw, Windpaw and I were gifted powers by Starclan warriors to stop an evil force and save the world of cats." she meowed quickly.

Heronpaw's eyes widened with shock and amazement. "Wow!" he breathed. "Do you three really have powers! What can you do?!? Can you show me!" he pleaded.

"Oh alright. Nothing too big though." Thunderpaw meowed and brought her muzzle down to the cold dirt. She sent a shock wave of thunder through the ground around them so it trembled.

"Whoa!" Heronpaw cheered. "What can Lightningpaw and Windpaw do?"

"Well, Lightningpaw has the power of Lightning, and Windpaw has the power of wind." Thunderpaw explained.
"And you have the power of thunder?" Heronpaw concluded.

"Exactly." Thunderpaw meowed.
"Now, I'm exhausted, I'm going to bed." she yawned. She padded over to her nest and curled her tail over her nose and drifted into a dream filled sleep.

hey guys! sorry, but my Instagram accounts were sadly deleted and I lost the cats that you entered. If you guys would please enter your cats Name, Age, Gender, MCK?, Looks, Rank, Do you want them to die? And that's all! Thanks guys!!!

thegraciegirl2003

ATTENTION!

Hey everyone!!! I have had very little time to work on this book because of school and soccer, so I will only be able to post chapters on the weekends. The only days during the week that I might be able to post on are Wednesday and Friday, because those are the only days I don't have soccer. I'll try to add one or two chapters every week and check in as often as I can. I hope you guys understand, and I'll add as much as I can!

thegraciegirl2003

Chapter 8

Thunderpaw woke sleepily the next morning. The green-leaf sun was filtering through the lush green leaves over the apprentice's den. She stretched and arched her back yawning and shook out her pelt. She padded out of the den and looked out of the camp. 'How great would it be to be leader someday.' she thought to herself.

"Thunderpaw?"

Thunderpaw whipped her head around, her fur bristling with surprise. She relaxed as she saw Heronpaw padding up to her. "What is it Heronpaw?" she asked.

"Fallenstar wants us and our mentors to go on dawn patrol." he replied cheerfully.

Thunderpaw's eyes lit up with joy. "My first patrol!" she squealed. She shifted her paws embarrassingly and her ear tips turned red. "Sorry, I'm just excited."

"Don't worry." Heronpaw giggled. "I was this excited when I went on my first patrol. Come on, Fallenstar and Olivedust are waiting outside." he meowed and scooted out of the den.

Thunderpaw bounced out of the den and saw Fallenstar and Olivedust sitting patiently at the entrance. She padded excitedly over to them. "So, where are we going?" she asked cheerfully.

"Over to the river, then mark the border with Amberclan. They seem to have been crossing the border." Fallenstar meowed.

"I'll shred any Amberclan cat I see!" Thunderpaw growled.

"Only on my command." Fallenstar ordered. "Follow us." He turned swiftly and darted into the forest with Olivedust at is side.

Thunderpaw sprinted alongside Heronpaw, their pelts brushing gently together. Heronpaw glanced at Thunderpaw and grinned.

Thunderpaw blushed and quickened her pace. Suddenly, the lush green forest came to an end and a huge rushing river came into view. "Is this the border with Amberclan?" Thunderpaw asked curiously. "How do they swim across?!"

"The river is flowing faster then normal because of the previous rain, but that won't stop them. Foxhearts..." Olivedust grumbled.

"Why don't they just fish from the river? I thought that was their main source of prey." Thunderpaw asked.

"It was. But Riverstar announced that Twolegs took all the fish from the river. So they come steal our prey so that their small part of the forest is plentiful. Then claim they didn't do it!" Fallenstar growled.

"Cowards." Heronpaw snarled.

"What was that?" A voiced meowed from behind them. A large tom followed by two other cats stepped out of the bushes behind them. "We told you we didn't steal your prey!"

"Well that's a lie if I ever heard one." Olivedust snarled. "Why don't you slither on back to your own territory Riverstar like the snakes that you are."

"Attack!" Riverstar yowled. At his command there was a blur of cats attacking the small patrol. Thunderpaw was rammed by a brown she-cat. She swiped her outstretched claws down Thunderpaw's flank and tripped her with her forepaw. Thunderpaw lashed out at her and dragged her claws across her eyes. Blood spurted across the grass as the she-cat fled to the river. Thunderpaw felt a tinge of satisfaction as the she-cat ran away. But the moment didn't last long. Her thoughts were interrupted as she heard Heronpaw yowl in pain. She whipped her head around to see Riverstar's jaws clamped around his neck.

"No!" She yowled. She charged at the muscular tom with all her strength. She crashed into his stomach sending him tumbling into the thorn bushes next to them. With him out of the way, Thunderpaw turned her attention back to Heronpaw. Her eyes widened as she saw him. There was blood gushing from a wound in

his neck. "Heronpaw!" she screeched. She crouched down and began frantically licking the wound. His blood was sharp and tangy on her tongue but she didn't care. She couldn't loose him. Not now. Not ever.

"Heronpaw! You have too be ok!" She wailed a tear rolling down her cheek.

"Th..Thunderpaw? Is that you" Heronpaw mumbled feebly.

"Yes! Yes its me." Thunderpaw meowed. "Are you ok? Come on, lets get you to Honeyhope." She scooted herself under Heronpaw and heaved herself up with the weak apprentice on her back. She trudged back to camp and laid him down in the clearing. "Honeyhope! Come quick it's Heronpaw!" Thuunderpaw screeched.

Honeyhope poked her head out of her den. Her eyes widened as she saw Heronpaw. "Oh dear." she meowed. She ducked back in her den and gathered her supplies. She darted back out of her den and up to the apprentice. "What happened Thunderpaw."

"Amberclan... Attacked.. Riverstar.." Thunderpaw meowed between gasps. She was exhausted from carrying Heronpaw back to camp and she had collapsed at his side. "Please.. Help him.. I can't loose him too." She curled up around Heronpaw and closed her eyes.

"Thunderpaw?" Heronpaw whispered.

"Yes?"

"I love you Thunderpaw." he meowed.

"I love you too." Thunderpaw meowed happily. She curled her tail around him and drifted into sleep.

Chapter 9

Thunderpaw's eyes opened wearily. She was surrounded by fog and mist, but she could make out a shadowy shape in the mist. "Stormstar?" she asked shakily. She rose to her paws, but her limbs were shaky and weary from the battle the day before. "Is that you?"

"Yes, it's me. I have come with prophecy." Stormstar meowed deeply. "A storm will rage deeply inside, and three will become two. Thunder, wind and lightning will come to an end, and mist will destroy the clans."

"What does that mean!" Thunderpaw wailed. "Are you talking about us? Please tell me!"

"You will find out in your own time, but for now, awake and see what awaits you." Stormstar meowed as he faded away into the fog.

Thunderpaw's eyes flashed open. She was back in the medicine den with Heronpaw, and his tail was wrapped around her. She grinned and licked his cheek. She rose to her paws and padded out into the sunlight. She looked around and saw that the camp was already in a buzz. "How late did we sleep!" she exclaimed. She spotted Windpaw padding up to her.

"Good, you're up. Fallenstar has called a meeting, go get Heronpaw." He said swiftly then darted away to the Great Willow.

Thunderpaw stepped back into the medicine den and shook Heronpaw gently. "Wake up, Fallenstar has called a meeting." she whispered.

Heronpaw yawned and nodded and stood up feebly. Thunderpaw darted to his side and braced him as they walked out to the Great Willow.

"Cats of Willowclan!" Fallenstar yowled from the Long Branch. "As

most of you know, our Dawn Patrol yesterday was attacked by an Amberclan patrol!"

Yowls of disapproval and hatred were spat from the cats below.

"Thunderpaw and Heronpaw were on this patrol and they both fought bravely and fiercely, and I have decided to make them warriors in their turn."

Thunderpaw's heart nearly stopped. *A warrior! What an honor!* she thought. She glanced at Heronpaw who was equally excited.

"I, Fallenstar, leader of Willowclan, call upon my warrior ancestors to look down on these two apprentices. They have trained hard to understand the ways of your noble code, and I commend them to you as a warriors in their turn. Do you, Heronpaw and Thunderpaw, promise to uphold the warrior code and to protect and defend your Clan, even at the cost of your life?" Fallenstar meowed.

"I do." Heronpaw meowed.

"I do." Thunderpaw meowed.

"Then by the powers of Starclan I give you you warrior names. Heronpaw, from this day forward, you shall be known as Heronflight. Starclan honors your swiftness and intelligence and we welcome you as a full warrior of Willowclan!"

"And Thunderpaw, from this day forward, you will be known as Thundersong. Starclan honors your fierceness, bravery, and loyalty, and we welcome you as a full warrior of Willowclan!" Fallenstar yowled.

"Heronflight! Thundersong! Heronflight! Thundersong!" The surrounding cats cheered. Thundersong looked around and saw Windpaw and Bearnose cheering for her. *If only Flowerpool was here to see this.* she thought sadly. *But wait, where's Lightningpaw?* She glanced around looking for her sister, but instead her eyes met with Heronflight's. His eyes were gleaming happily and he bounded up and licked her cheek.

"We're warriors now!" he meowed excitedly.

Thundersong turned and licked Heronflight's ear. "But now everything's different. I.. I have to go find Lightningpaw."

He stepped back and nodded understandingly. Thundersong dipped her head gratefully then turned and darted out of camp.

Chapter 10

Thundersong rushed through the forest. The undergrowth scraped at her pelt, but she didn't care. She has to get to Lightningpaw. And she new exactly where she was. She slowed her pace as she approached the clearing. *Flowerpool's mound.* She pushed her way through the bushes and she saw her sister crouching in front of Flowerpool's mound with he head dipped.
Lightningpaw turned her head to look upon her sister. "Oh hi, Thunder*song*." she growled.
"Lightningpaw there's no need to be angry." Thundersong mewed softly.
"There's plenty of reasons to be angry!" Lightningpaw screeched. "First the prey, then your a warrior, and now, you get the tom!"
"What are you talking about?" Thundersong questioned.
"You know perfectly well of what I'm talking about Thundersong." Lightningpaw growled. She turned and looked at Flowerpool's mound. "You were always her favorite." She turned and dashed out of the clearing and back to camp.

Thundersong padded back slowly to the camp. *Where did I go wrong. Why does she hate me now?* All these thoughts were streaming through her mind when she was jolted back to her senses when she heard Fallenstar yowl from the Long Branch.
"Tonight is the gathering!" he yowled. "The cats that will be going are Heronflight, Thundersong, Olivedust, Lightningpaw, Windpaw, Wildgaze, Rosehawk, Honeyhope, Iceshiver, Flydust, Otterwhisper, Fennelsplash, Rushdust, Jayeye, Wolleystream, Clearmist, and myself. We leave at the dusk!"

Thundersong trotted excitedly behind Fallenstar. *I can't believe I'm going to my first gathering! As a warrior!* The clan moved through the barrier to the gathering place and all of the cats took their places. *Wow! That must be the High Stone!* Thundersong thought as she gazed curiously at the tall boulder overlooking the clearing.
There were three cats standing upon the stone. Fallenstar, and two cats she has never seen before. One of them was a large black tom

with only 3/4 of his tail. And the other was a black and yellow she cat. Thundersong leaned over to Heronflight. "Who are those other two cats?" she whispered.
"The she-cat is Beestar. She's the leader of Breezeclan. And the tom is Ashstar. He's the leader of Wonderclan."
Thundersong gazed up at the boulder again and noticed another cat standing by the other leaders. *Riverstar.* Thundersong lashed her tail angrily and saw Heronflight and the rest of Willowclan was doing the same.
Fallenstar turned his head to Beestar and dipped his head. "Would you like to start?" he asked.
"Gladly. Thank you Fallenstar." Beestar me owed as she stepped forward. "Green-leaf has been good to Breezeclan. Prey has been plentiful and the Twolegs have kept their distance. But sadly, one of our elders Dewnose died. She will rest peacefully in Starclan." She dipped her head and beconed towards Ashstar.
Ashstar stepped forward and began speaking. "Green-leaf has also been good to Wonderclan. We recently defeated a pack of dogs that had settled on our territory and we are marking our borders regularly." the large tom meowed then turned and glared at Beestar.
I wonder if their clans had been fighting too. Thundersong thought.
Fallenstar stepped forward. "Willowclan is doing well. We have two new warriors, Heronflight, and Thundersong!" He paused to let the clans cheer.
Thundersong rose to her paws, her tail held high as the clans cheered her name. Heronflight glanced at her smiling, his eyes full of happiness. Thundersong grinned and looked around at all the assembled cats. She noticed Lightningpaw sitting next to a strange tom. He was a brown tabby and was very muscular, but he didn't look old enough to be a warrior. *But then again, I bet Heronflight and I don't look old enough to be warriors either...*

Fallenstar began speaking again when the cheering had died down. "We are marking our borders regularly, and an cat that is spotted trespassing, I have given permission to attack." he growled glaring at Riverstar, his tail lashing angrily.

Riverstar sorted angrily and shoved his way forward. "Green-leaf has not been well to Amberclan. The Two-legs from upstream have moved down to our territory and have started taking all the fish

from the river. Because of this, we have been forced to hunt on the small portion of land. Now I must ask you, we need more territory, and we need it now. The land portion of territory he have isn't enough to sustain my clan. So you must give us some of your territory. Beestar has already agreed to this transaction."

Yowls of rage were spat from the cats of Willowclan and Wonderclan.

"Enough!" Fallenstar meowed. "Let Riverstar and I speak in private." He turned and padded to the other end of the boulder and began whispering.

Thundersong stood bristling at the foot of the boulder. *How dare Riverstar ask for our territory!* Thundersong shook out her pelt and looked around for Lightningpaw. She wasn't where she last was, and the tom was gone too. She swiveled her head around looking for them, but they were nowhere to be seen. She darted over to Heronflight. "I can't find Lightningpaw!" she meowed frantically.

"Don't worry, she probably went off to talk to some cats from the other clans." he meowed comfortingly.

"Oh." Thundersong whispered. *Probably off with that tom.* Thundersong thought angrily. Her attention was drawn back to the boulder as Fallenstar and Riverstar padded back up to the front.

"Willowclan! Lets go!" Fallenstar yowled. He kept down from the boulder and trotted to the exit, his clan following behind him. Thundersong trotted after Heronflight as they left the gathering place.

Thundersong collapsed on her nest when they returned back to camp. Heronflight poked his head inside the apprentices den. "What are you doing Thunder*song*, we sleep in the warriors den now." he laughed.

Thundersong scrambled to her feet embarrassingly and padded over to him.

"Don't worry, nobody saw but me." He whispered.

Thundersong grinned and padded over to the warriors den with Heronflight, heir tails intertwined. They picked a two nests at the back of the den and settled down. Once they were settled, Heronflight lifted his head. "Thundersong? I....I need ask you something." he meowed nervously.

"Yes?" Thundersong meowed. She lifted her head from her paws and turned toward Heronflight, her eyes sparkling.

"Thundersong," Heronflight began. "I love you so much, and I was wondering, if you wanted to be my mate."

"Oh Heronflight! Of corse I would!" Thundersong exclaimed and licked her mate's cheek, her eyes gleaming. "I love you so much." she purred. She curled up with him and dosed off into sleep. And the last thing she saw, was Herionflight's tail, wrapped around her.

Chapter 11

Thundersong woke up surrounded by a thick fog. *Stormstar.* "Stormstar? Are you there?" Thundersong meowed.

"Yes I am here." Stormstar meowed calmly. "I have come to warn you of something."

"What? What is it?" Thundersong asked impatiently.

"The great blue bird will be struck down by the poison in that lurks in the sky." he replied darkly.

"What doe that mean!"

"It is what will come to pass if you should fail to protect the ones you love." Stormstar meowed deeply. "Now go, it's time for you to awake. Your clan needs you."

Thundersong nodded and curled up where she had awoken. She drifted into sleep and every thing went black.

Thundersong awoke back in Willowclan. The early leaf-fall leaves were starting to drift from the trees and the branches on the Great Willow were beginning to bare. She rose to her paws, careful not to awake her sleeping mate. *His wound is still paying a toll on him.* She thought. She padded quietly out of the den and saw Bearnose and Fallenstar arranging patrols. Fallenstar noticed Thundersong and called her over.

"Yes Fallenstar?" Thundersong asked.

"Now that your a warrior, I would like you to lead a patrol with Heronflight, Lightningpaw, and Wildgaze over to the Amberclan border."

Lightningpaw. Thundersong thought bitterly, but she turned her attention back to Fallenstar.

"Of course Fallenstar! I'd be honored!" she meowed cheerfully. "I just hope we don't run into that fox heart Riverstar again." she growled.

"Riverstar and I came to an agreement. I told him he could have the useless marsh down at the end of our territory if he promised to stay off our territory." Fallenstar meowed.

"Oh." Thundersong meowed. "Why didn't you announce it at the gathering?"

"Riverstar didn't want to anger any of the cats, so he said to tell our clans separately." he answered.

"Oh, ok."

"You may leave now." he meowed.

Thundersong nodded and turned and darted to wake her mate. She pushed her way into the warrior's den and prodded Heronflight gently with her paw.

"Heronflight! Wake up! We had to go on patrol!" she meowed.

"Ok, ok I'm up." Heronflight meowed sleepily as he rose to his paws. "Who's leading it?" he asked.

"Me!"

"Thundersong that's great!" he meowed happily as he licked her cheek. "I'm so proud of you!"

Thundersong blushed and smiled. She turned ad padded out of the den with Heronflight at her side.

When they were outside the den, she spotted Lightingpaw and Wildgaze waiting at the entrance. Lightingpaw had a bitter look across her face and her claws were digging into the ground.

"Everyone ready?" Thundersong asked happily trying to cheer Lightingpaw up.

"Lead the way!" Wildgaze meowed as her stepped aside.

Thundersong dipped her head to the elderly warrior and trotted to the front of the patrol. She quickened her pace so that the patrol was speeding through the the forest. The patrol slowed down as they neared the border.

"Wildgaze, go up to the upper part of the border and scent mark there. Lightingpaw, go down to the lower part of the border. Heronflight and I will take the center. Report back here and come back immediately if you spot any Amberclan cats." Thundersong ordered. Wildgaze nodded and turned upward towards the tip of the border. Lightingpaw padded past her and directed herself to the lower tip of the border.

Thundersong glanced at Heronflight signaling him to follow her. He nodded and padded behind his mate as she followed the path along the border. She stood when they reached the scent marker and they both marked the mound.

Thundersong nodded at Heronflight and they turned back towards where they would meet Wildgaze and Lightingpaw.

Lightingpaw. What happened between us? she wailed silently.

They pushed there way through the undergrowth. She saw Wildgaze sitting patiently in the clearing.

"Anything to report?" She asked.

"Nothing unusual." The tom responded.

"Good."

But where's Lightingpaw?

"I'm going to go look for Lightingpaw." Thundersong meowed. "Stay here." The grey she-cat darted swiftly through the bushes looking for her sister. *Where could she have gone? The edge of the border wasn't very far.* Thundersong thought.

She froze when she heard rustling up ahead. She instinctively

crouched down and crept forward. She got close enough so that she could see what was there.
Thundersong's eyes widened as she saw the brown tom from the gathering. *What's he doing here!*

She turned her head and spotted Lightingpaw coming towards the tom. Then her heart nearly stopped. Lightingpaw wasn't approaching defensively, instead, she trotted up to the tom cheerfully and licked his cheek. The tom grinned and batted Lightingpaw playfully. They both tumbled over laughing.

Thundersong threw herself out of the bush. "What are you doing!" she screeched.

Chapter 12

Lightningpaw whipped her head an glared at her sister. "What are you doing here!" she snarled angrily.

"Looking for you mouse-brain!" Thundersong spat. "What are you doing! He's an Amberclan tom! You can't be in love with *him!*"

"But I do love him and there's nothing you can do to stop me!" Lightningpaw shot back. Her eyes we glaring she wrapped her tail protectively around the brown tabby tom.

"No, I can't. But I can tell Fallenstar!" Thundersong turned around and shot back up the path she came down just moments before. She could feel Lightningpaw's hot breath on her tail. She ran faster than she ever had before. She skidded to a halt when she reached he thorn barrier and she shoved her way through the tunnel. "Fallenstar!" she shouted.

Fallenstar poked his head out of his den and padded quickly over to Thundersong. "What is it?" he meowed worridly.

"Lightningpaw's a traitor! She loves a tom from Amberclan!"

"What!" Fallenstar meowed. He turned to Lighningpaw who had just skidded in behind her sister. "Is this true Lighningpaw."

Lightningpaw glared at her leader. "Loving Burntpaw doesn't make me a traitor!" she growled unsheathing her claws.

"But it does make you untrustworthy. Lightningpaw, you are now sent into exile!" Fallenstar yowled.

Lightningpaw gazed horrified at her leader. Then her gaze darkened. "Fine!" she shouted. "I'll make a new home with cats who actually care about me! In Amberclan!" With that, she sped out of the camp tears streaming from her eyes.

Thundersong glanced unbelievably at her leader. "How could you

do that! You don't know what you've done!" Thundersong dashed into the den she shared with Heronflight and collapsed into their nest. *What have i done! This is all my fault!* Then Thundersong remembered Stormstar's words. *"A storm will rage deeply inside, and three will become two. Thunder, wind and lightning will come to an end, and mist will destroy the clans."* Thundersong's thoughts were interrupted as Windpaw dashed into the den.

"Thundersong come quick! It's Bearnose! He's dying!"

Hey guys! Sorry for the short chapter and not updating nearly as much as I should. I'm going to try to get back at it and I hope you all stay tuned!

thegraciegirl2003

Chapter 13

[image]

~cat above is Bearnose
"What!" Thundersong screeched heaving herself to her paws. "Where is he!"

"In the medicine cat's den!" Windpaw called as he sped out of the den.

Thundersong darted after her brother as fast as she could and shoved herself through the barrier into the medicine cat's den. She stood and gaped as she saw her father's limp body, blood pooling around his neck.

"What's happening to him!" she yowled to Honeyhope.

The medicine cat searched frantically around her den looking for the proper herbs to cure the dying deputy. "I...I don't know." she meowed unsurely. "I think, it's the same thing that happened to your mother."

Thundersong glanced nervously at her brother an padded up to her father. "Bearnose? Can you hear me?" she wailed.

Bearnose wearily lifted his head and groaned. "Th....Thundersong? Windpaw?" he stammered.

"Yes! It's me! Your going to be ok!" Thundersong panicked. "We can't loose you too!"

"No, listen to me." Bearnose gasped sternly. "You must watch out. They are coming for us all." With that, Bearnose sighed and his head thudded to the ground.

"No!" Thundersong wailed. She burrowed her nose into her fathers fur, tears streaming from her eyes.

Windpaw padded up to his father and rested his muzzle on his

bleeding "No..." he whined.

Fallenstar padded into the medicine cat's den. "How is Bear..." He broke off a he saw the limp body of his deputy. He padded forward and dipped his head. "Rest in peace, my old friend."

Why did this have to happen!

Thundersong raced out of the medicine den and pushed her way into the Warriors den and collapsed in the nest she shared with Heronflight. She heard Heronflight pad slowly into the den and he lauded down in the best beside her.

"I'm so sorry Thundersong." he meowed sympathetically. "He was a great cat."

Thundersong burrowed her nose into his fur sobbing. "Why did they have to take him! I'll kill them all!"

"Kill who?" Heronflight asked.

"The Dark Forest cats. They killed Flowerpool, and now Bearnose. An...And they're coming for you next." Thundersong told him.

"What!" Heronflight gasped, his eyes wide in shock. "How do you know?"

"Stormstar, my Starclan mentor, told me that "The great blue bird will be struck down by the poison in that lurks in the sky." "Heronflight, you are the great blue bird." Thundersong finished.

Heronflight stared at his mate. "So what do we do now." he asked.

"I think we should..."

Thundersong was cut off as she heard Fallenstar's yowl from outside the den. "We can talk later." she meowed. She padded slowly out of the den, Heronflight following behind her.

She seated herself next to Windpaw and glanced up at the strong leader.

"I have called you hear on behalf of some terrible news." Fallenstar began. "Bearnose has sadly passed on into Starclan."

Shocked meows of grief and disbelief were heard from the cats settled around the Great Willow.

"But it is my duty to appoint a new deputy before moon high. I say these words before Starclan, so that the spirit of Bearnose can hear and approve my choice. The new deputy of Willowclan will be Thundersong." Fallenstar yowled form the Long Branch.

Thundersong jumped to her paws and gazed at her leader, her eyes filled with shock, gratitude and grief. She shook out her pelt and dipped her head. "I will serve you well Fallenstar."

"I know you will." Fallenstar meowed. "I still have one more announcement." He turned his gaze towards Windpaw.

"Windpaw you have passed your assessment and it is time for you to become a warrior. Rosehawk, is your apprentice ready to be a warrior?" he asked.

"He is more than ready Fallenstar." Rosehawk meowed proudly.

"Then I, Fallenstar, leader of Willowclan, call upon my warrior ancestors to look down on this apprentice. He has trained hard to understand the ways of your noble code and I commend him to you as a warrior in his turn. Windpaw, do you promise to uphold the warrior code and protect and defend your clan, even at the cost of your life?"

"I do." Windpaw meowed boldly.

"Then by the powers of Starclan, I give you your warrior name. From this day forward you shall be known as Windstorm. Starclan honors you intelligence and bravery, and we welcome you as a full warrior of Willowclan!" Fallenstar yowled.

"Windstorm! Windstorm!" the clan chanted. Thundersong's cheer was the loudest of all.

Windstorm flicked his tail proudly and he padded up to his sister.

"Congratulations!" Thundersong meowed happily.

"And congratulations to you too!" he replied cheerfully, the thought of Bearnose behind him.

Thundersong purred and locked his cheek. She turned to Heronflight and grinned. She blushed as he licked her cheek. "Nothing will stop you now!"

Chapter 14

[image]

~cat above is Riverstar

Thundersong dipped her head sorrowfully. The evening light was shining through the trees that surrounded the burial place. She was surrounded by her clanmates who were equally as sorrow. Tears slowly streamed from her eyes as the elders lowered her father's body into his final resting place.

"Goodbye Bearnose." she whispered softly. She stood solemnly next to Windstorm while each cat stepped forward to pay their final respects.

When every cat had said farewell to the deputy, the elders slowly shoved dirt into the deep hole in which Bearnose rested.

Thunder slowly rumbled in the distance and wind swirled through the branches of the trees overhead. But there was no familiar lightning to the brewing storm. *Are we torn apart forever?*

"Come. It is time to go back to camp." Fallenstar meowed, his voice filled with grief. He slowly padded out of the clearing with all of the cats following.

When they reached the camp, Thundersong sat down at the fresh kill pile. *I need to tell Lightingpaw...* she thought.

She rose to her paws and padded over to Fallenstar who had just stepped inside his den.

"Fallenstar. I'm going to Amberclan to tell Lightingpaw about Bearnose." she told her leader.

Fallenstar dipped his head. "I wish you luck." he meowed.

Thundersong nodded and turned and darted out of the den. She padded over to Windstorm.

"I'm going to Amberclan to see Lightningpaw. Would you like to come?" she asked.

"I would love to." the newly made warrior meowed.

"Then let's go."

Thundersong raced out of camp with Windstorm at her heels towards Amberclan territory.

When the two cats reached the river, the padded over to the fallen log. Thundersong leapt onto it and padded across the slick wood. She jumped down to the ground and turned to see Windstorm landing beside her.

Thundersong nodded and raced through the forest towards Riverstar's camp.

The siblings skidded to a halt as they reached the reed barrier to the camp. The cat named Otterpool was standing fairs outside. The brown she-cat's fur bristled as she saw the two approaching cats.

"Who are you an what are you doing here." she snarled.

"I am Thundersong, deputy of Willowclan, and this is my brother Windstorm. We are here to see Lightningpaw." Thundersong meowed.

"You mean Lightingstrike?" Otterpool meowed. "Right this way."

The she-cat led the visitors through the camp entrance and towards the fresh kill pile where Thundersong saw her sister enjoying a fish with Burntpaw. *Not him.* Thundersong thought bitterly.

Thundersong saw her sister's hackles rise the she saw her whisper something to Burntpaw. The muscular time rose to his paws and padded away as Lightningstrike padded over to her littermates.

"What are you doing here." Lightningstrike meowed, a slight growl in her voice.

"We come bearing terrible news." Thundersong meowed slowly, her

tail wrapped around her paws and head dipped.

"Well, what is it?" Lightningstrike snapped.

"Bearnose is dead."

Lightningstrike gave a horrified look to her siblings. "How!"

"They took him." Windstorm snarled.

"Lightningpaw, he said..."

"It's Lightningstrike now." Lightningstrike interrupted.

"Ok then, Lightningstrike, before he died he said that they we coming for us all. I think this threat is greater than we think." Thundersong meowed.

"What's going on." Thundersong heard a voice meow from up ahead.

Thundersong glanced upwards to see Riverstar standing on the High Rock.

"Who are you." the leader boomed.

"This is Windstorm, and I am Thundersong, deputy of Willowclan and siblings of Lightningstrike."

Lightningstrike gave a shocked glance at her sister, but didn't utter a word.

"We come bearing news of the death of Bearnose." Windstorm meowed.

"I am sorry for your loss." Riverstar meowed. "But now you must leave.

"Before we leave, may we have a word with Lightningstrike in private?" Thundersong asked.

"Of corse." Riverstar meowed. "She can escort you to the river."

"Thank you Riverstar." Thundersong meowed, then turned to

Lightingstrike.

"Follow me." Lightningstrike ordered as she padded out of camp.

Lightningstrike lead the way back to the river bank and sat down when they reached it.

"So what did you want to
tell me." she meowed.

"Lightningstrike don't you see?" Thundersong meowed. "They are taking everything from us! Stormstar came to me in a dream saying that if I don't protect him, they'll take Heromflight!"

Lightningstrike's eyes widened. "Rainshine told me the same thing about Burntbristle!" she meowed.
"What do we do?"

"We have to do the one thing we were given these powers for. We have to fight the evil."

Chapter 15

Thundersong padded through the forest, her fur fluffed up as the cold lead-bare air chilled her bones. Windstorm padded alongside her, his tan fur made him look twice as big as he was.

"How do you think we can stop them?" he asked. "Do you think think we can even touch them?"

"I'm not sure." Thundersong replied thoughtfully. "But we can't do it alone. We are going to have to tell our clan mates at some point..."

Windstorm nodded slowly. He stopped when they reached the camp entrance. "The first thing we could do is tell Fallenstar. He should be the first to know." he pointed out.

"Your right." Thundersong agreed. She padded through the camp entrance and padded over to where Fallenstar's den was under to Great Willow. She poked her head inside, Windstorm at her side.

"Fallenstar?" she asked quietly.

Thundersong poked her head inside the den to see the black and white leader whispering to Honeyhope.

"Yes. What is it?" Fallenstar asked quietly.

"There's something Windstorm and I need to talk to you about." Thundersong meowed nervously. She padded over to the cats and sat down with Windstorm at her side.

Thundersong noticed Honeyhope shuffle her paws. *Hmmm... Is she keeping something from us?*

Thundersong took a deep breath. "Windstorm, Lightningstrike, and I aren't, well, *normal.*" she began.

Fallenstar tilted his head. "What do you mean by that." he asked curiously.

"The night lightning struck the nursery, Lightningstrike, Windstorm, and I visited Starclan. Three cats came to us. Hailpelt, Rainshine, and Stormstar." Thundersong explained.

Thundersong heard Honeyhope and Fallenstar gasp.

"Rainshine....." Honeyhope murmured sadly.

Thundersong shrugged. "Stormstar, Rainshine, and Hailpelt told us that a great evil was rising. They said that they would kill us all. One by one..."

"So how do we stop, *them*." Honeyhope asked.

"There is a way." Windstorm meowed.

"Us." Thundersong meowed boldly. "Stormstar, Rainshine and Hailpelt each have us powers to stop them."

Fallenstar and Honeyhope's eyes widened.

"W..What kind of powers?" Fallenstar asked curiously.

"Well I have the power of wind." Windstorm told the cats.

"I have the power of thunder. And Lightningstrike has the power of lightning." Thundersong finished.

Fallenstar rose to his paws. "Thank you for telling us. But what do we do now?" he asked quietly.

"We wait for them to strike, then we'll be ready. I'm not leting more cats die the same death as Flowerpool and Bearnose." Thundersong meowed, a slight growl in her tone.

"Wait, *they* killed Flowerpool and Bearnose?" Honeyhope asked horridly.

Thundersong and Windstorm nodded slowly.

Honeyhope dipped her head. "We will do whatever we can to help you."

Thundersong and Windstorm dipped their heads and padded out of the den.

"Well that went well." Windstorm meowed.

Thundersong nodded and padded over to the fresh kill pile. Only a skinny squirrel and a mouse we left on the pile. 'Leafbare is almost upon us...' She sighed and grabbed the mouse from the pile and settled down next to the warrior's den to eat.

After she finished eating, she liked her lips and rose to her paws. He belly was full, but there was another feeling. "I'll talk to Honeyhope about it tomorrow...." she mumbled.

Thundersong slipped into the den and padded over to the nest she shared with Heronflight. The tom was already curled up in the nest. She curled up next to him, her belly still feeling different.

What is happening!

Chapter 16

Thundersong woke to another strange feeling in her belly. She rose to her paws, but staggered, almost tripping over Heronflight.

"Sorry!" she whispered. She padded out of the den to see the early dawn light shining down on the camp. The Great Willow's branches were bare and few cats scattered the clearing. She saw Olivedust and Wildgaze sharing a squirrel.

Thundersong padded over to the two and sat down. "Olivedust. Can you lead the dawn patrol?" she asked.

Olivedust rose to her paws and licked her lips. "Sure Thundersong. Who do you want me to take?"

"Me and Wildgaze." she meowed.

Olivedust shuffled her paws. "Sure Thundersong. But I wouldn't advise you coming. After all, you want the best for your kits."

"Kits!" Thundersong nearly shrieked. She jumped to her paws. "What do you mean, *kits*."

Olivedust and Wildgaze exchanged an awkward look. "I'm sorry... We thought you knew..." she mumbled.

Thundersong nodded and raced back into the warrior's den. She bounded over to where Heronflight was still fast asleep.

"Heronflight!" Thundersong meowed excitedly. She prodded her mate quickly with her paw.

"W..Wha...?" Heronflight mumbled sleepily.

"Heronflight! I'm expecting kits!"

Heronflight jumped up instantly, his deep, blue eyes beaming. "Really!" he meowed happily.

Thundersong nodded excitedly. She licked Heronflight's cheek purring.

"I'm going to be a father." Heronflight whispered into Thundersong's ear, his voice filled with joy.

Thundersong purred and padded out of the den with Heronflight at her side.

When she padded back outside, she noticed almost every cat was gathered around the elder's den. Thundersong looked at Heronflight then they both sprinter over to the den.

"What's going on!" Thundersong demanded.

"It's Fireplum!" she heard Olivedust wail.

Thundersong exchanged a horrified look with Heronflight then she pushed her way through the gathered cats, trying to get into the den.

Finally, they both managed to shove their way into the den. Thundersong and Heronflight's eyes both widened with horror. Fireplum laid dead on her side, blood pooling around her neck and belly. Scratches slashed her flanks, and her deep blue eyes were dull.

"No!" Thundersong screeched lunging for the dead elder. She began rapidly licking her wounds clean. "How could they take another one of us...." she whispered. "I'm so sorry Fireplum..."

Honeyhope and Fallenstar managed to squeeze their way into the den. Both had the same horrified look spread across their faces.

"H...How..!" Fallenstar stammered, his voice filled with rage.

"I don't know. But I intend to find out..." Thundersong growled, rising to her paws. "It's time for the clan to sit vigil."

Fallenstar nodded and grabbed Fireplum by the scruff, while Heronflight and Thundersong both pressed against her blood soaked flanks. They carried her out of the den and towards the center of

the clearing. They set her down gently and let cats swarm around them. They were all screeching and yowling with rage.

"What! Who did this!"

"How could this happen!"

"Again!"

Thundersong tried to mute the angry yowls and tried to focus. *Stormstar please come to me tonight.....* She silently pleaded.

Thundersong and Heronflight both padded forward to pay their final respects to Fireplum. Thundersong crouched down next to the dead elder. "I will avenge you Fireplum...." she whispered. "I....." She was interrupted when Fallenstar yowled from the Long Branch.

"Cats of Willowclan! You all know about the death of Fireplum. Thundersong has told me and Honeyhope some valuable information, and I would like her and Windstorm to come up here and tell all of you." Fallenstar yowled.

Thundersong glanced at Windstorm then padded forward. She bunched up her legs and leapt onto the Long Branch. She settled next to Fallenstar, as Windstorm jumped up beside her.

"Cats of Willowclan!" Thundersong yowled. "Windstorm and I know who is doing this. But it may not be what it seems."

"Who!"

"Why haven't you said something before this!"

"We had our reasons." Thundersong replied calmly. "But the Dark Forest cats. They are killing us off one by one. First Flowerpool, then Bearnose, and now Fireplum. But, there is a way we can stop them."

"How!" she heard Rosehawk yowl.

"Us." she meowed simply, pointing her tail at her and Windstorm.

"What do you mean, you?" Wildgaze called.

Thundersong nodded at Windstorm. She leapt down from the branch and touched her muzzled to the ground. It rumbled ferociously, making the cats above tremble.

Windstorm pointed his nose to the sky and closed his eyes. The wind swept up all of the scattered leaves, and swirled them up and around the assembled cats.

Thundersong sent a shockwave through the sky, and all of the leaves whisked back to the ground.

They both turned to the assembled cats and gazed at them. All of them were wide eyed. Thundersong muffled a laugh and she sat down.

"We may be able to do *that*. But, we'll need all of your help, to face this evil."